

Fig. 3-5 CULTURAL INTRINSIC RESOURCES

3 Intrinsic Qualities

Cultural Resource Assessment

Georgetown is the hub of cultural resources and events along the Canal Road Scenic Byway. Most notable, Georgetown University, hosts a variety of cultural events each month, ranging from art and drama programs to academic lectures.

Georgetown hosts international institutions of culture. The Embassy of Ukraine and the Embassy of Mongolia are located along M Street.

M Street has historically had a large role in Washington's social and business affairs. Today, M Street thrives as a major shopping and entertainment district, with numerous stores, boutiques, restaurants, and bars.

Washington Harbor, on the river side of K Street NW, has become a popular place for dining and a social spot for boaters who descend upon the restaurants and bars from all over the East Coast.

Georgetown has also played a role in popular culture. For example, the Exorcist Steps at 33rd Street were featured in the movie “The Exorcist,” and are well-known in local lore.

Notable CULTURAL RESOURCES at a Glance

Georgetown University

Exorcist Steps

M Street

Embassy of Mongolia

Embassy of Ukraine

Washington Harbor

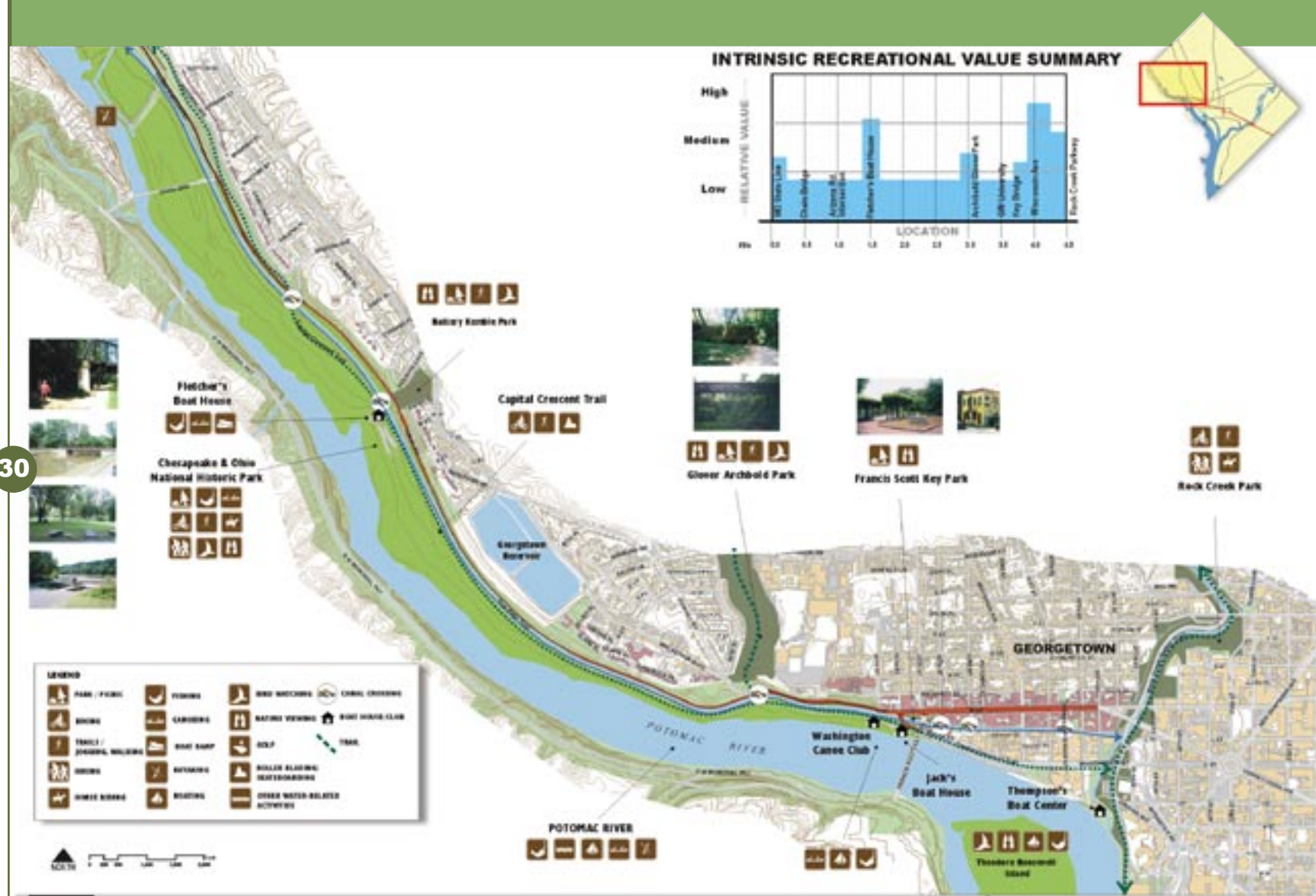


Fig. **RECREATIONAL INTRINSIC RESOURCES**

3 Intrinsic Qualities Recreational Resource Assessment

The Chesapeake and Ohio National Historic Park is a major recreational asset accessible within the Canal Road byway. The canal's towpath provides a nearly level, continuous trail through the Potomac River Valley. Every year millions of visitors come to hike or bike the C&O Canal. Rides in mule-pulled barges are available through the locks in Georgetown.

Fletcher's Boat House - This popular National Park Service concession near Reservoir Road provides an important access to many recreational activities, including picknicking, bicycle riding, birdwatching, and fishing and boating in the Potomac River. Row-boats and canoes are available for rent and for use in the river or in the C&O Canal. Trails are used for running, hiking, biking, rollerblading, bird-watching, and nature enjoyment.

Among the activities enjoyed on the Potomac River are boating and fishing. University crew teams use the river for practice. Further upstream, kayakers find white water to enjoy. Boats and canoes can be rented at Thomson Boat Center, Jack's Boats, and Fletcher's Boat House.

Theodore Roosevelt Island commemorates the great conservationist President. Although it is near the flight path of National Airport, it is a haven for hikers, birdwatchers, and others who enjoy nature. Trails radiate outward from a central memorial and statute, surrounded by a moat and lined with willow oaks. The island can be reached by canoe or boat, which are available for rent from local boat houses; pedestrian access to the island is via a footbridge on the Virginia side of the Potomac river.

The 11.5-mile Capital Crescent Trail follows the route of the former Georgetown Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which was active until 1985. The trail begins at the west end of K Street, beneath the Whitehurst Freeway, near the Potomac Boat Club and the Washington Canoe Club and runs between the C&O

Canal and the Potomac River. The trail is paved for seven miles, which makes it popular with bicycle riders and in-line skaters. Near the intersection of Foxhall and Canal Roads, an old stone tunnel beneath Canal Road provides a connection to the Glover Archbold trail. Near a stairway up to the canal towpath, there is an emergency call box. At Arizona Avenue the trail crosses Canal Road on what was formerly a railroad trestle bridge and follows the palisades above Canal Road, the C&O Canal, and the Potomac River.

C&O Towpath - This dirt path runs through the C&O National Historic Park. A concrete ramp leads down from Chain Bridge, providing access for hikers, bikers, anglers, and the handicapped. The towpath is also part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, a hiking trail designated by Congress that extends from the Chesapeake Bay to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Glover Archbold Trail - This wide, blue-paint-blazed, 3-mile trail leads north from Canal Road to Massachusetts Avenue and Van Ness Street, four blocks south of the Tenleytown Metro Station. Through the bicycle and pedestrian tunnel under Canal Road near Foxhall Road, there is a connection to the Capital Crescent Trail and C&O Canal Towpath. It is a popular trail with runners - and with people who like to relax on the wooden benches in the park.

Battery Kemble Trail - One end of this 1.5-mile trail is on the Potomac River, where the Capital Crescent Trail and C&O Canal Tow Path pass Fletcher's Boat House. The other end is near the intersection of Loughboro and Foxhall Roads.

City Parks near the byway include the Palisades Community Center at Dana Place and Sherier Place and the Hardy Recreation Center at 45th and Q Streets NW. Both centers offer picnic areas, soccer fields, basketball courts, playgrounds, tennis courts, arts and crafts, aerobics, and other sports and club activities.

Notable RECREATIONAL RESOURCES at a Glance

- Potomac River
- Chesapeake & Ohio National Historic Park and Canal towpath
- Battery Kemble Park and Trail
- Capital Crescent Trail
- Fletcher's Boat House
- Glover Archbold Park and Trail
- Rock Creek Park
- Francis Scott Key Park
- Theodore Roosevelt Island



Fig. 3-7

RESOURCES LOCATED ALONG THE CLARA BARTON PARKWAY

- Scenic
- Natural
- Cultural
- Historic & Archaeological
- Recreational

3 Intrinsic Qualities Resources of Significance

This section presents the resources by segment of Canal Road. Each resource is described in the text below and indicated on the segment maps. The resources' associated intrinsic qualities are also noted in the text and maps.

Clara Barton Parkway Segment

1 The C&O Canal - The C&O Canal follows the route of the Potomac River for 184.5 miles from Washington, DC, to Cumberland, MD. The canal operated from 1828 to 1924 as a transportation route, primarily hauling coal from western Maryland to the port of Georgetown. It is the Nation's most intact reminder of the Canal Era in the 19th century.

Work started on the C&O Canal on July 4, 1828, when ground was broken by President John Quincy Adams at Little Falls above Chain Bridge. Plans called for the canal to extend all the way to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to link with the Ohio River, but financial and other reasons caused construction to halt at Cumberland, Maryland in 1850. The canal was never a financial success, but it provided a cheap and leisurely means for transporting coal, flour, grain, and lumber to Georgetown. The canal went out of business permanently in 1924 after a severe flood and lack of financial resources to repair the damage.

In the 1950s, the C&O Canal was proposed for an automobile parkway from Georgetown to Cumberland. Following a well-publicized, eight-day hike along the Canal in 1954 by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and other prominent individuals, however, plans were scrapped and support grew for Justice Douglas's plan to preserve the Canal corridor as a place where nature could be experienced within an increasingly urban area. The 20,000-acre area became the C&O National Historic Park in 1971. Hundreds of original structures, including locks, lockhouses, and aqueducts, can be seen today.

Within the Canal Road Byway corridor, the Canal has five locks, all located in Georgetown. A concrete marker at the Tidewater Lock indicates the official beginning of the C&O Canal, at the mouth of Rock Creek. When the Canal was operating, Rock Creek was dammed here to create a turning basin below the first lift lock.

The portion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park within the District is rich in natural resources, including wetlands, riparian habitat, floodplains, and forested uplands.

The C&O Canal National Historic Park Visitors Center, located between 30th and Thomas Jefferson Streets NW, in a building next to the towpath, is a National Park Service-run facility. It is open to the public Thursday - Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Canal boat rides are available several times a day on these days and tickets may be obtained here for a fee. The C&O Canal Monument marker, located on Wisconsin Avenue NW, south of M Street west of the canal bridge, was erected in 1850 to recognize the completion of the canal to Cumberland, Maryland.

2 Potomac River - The portion of the Potomac River bordering the capital city is part of a 383-mile long river that begins in Fairfax Stone, West Virginia, and empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Point Lookout, Maryland. The "Nation's River" drains 14,670 squares miles in four states (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania) and the District of Columbia, and lies in several geological provinces (the Appalachian Plateau, the Blue Ridge, the Piedmont Plateau, and the Atlantic Coastal Plain). In July 1998, the President of the United States designated the Potomac River an American Heritage River, one of 14 in the country. The Potomac River provides domestic water for Washington, DC and northern Virginia suburbs.

After each description of a byway resource, there is a letter or letters in parentheses. These letters stand for the intrinsic quality that the resource embodies, either at the District or National level, as follows:

- A = Archaeological
- C = Cultural
- H = Historic
- N = Natural
- R = Recreational
- S = Scenic



Chain Bridge